The Progressive Review

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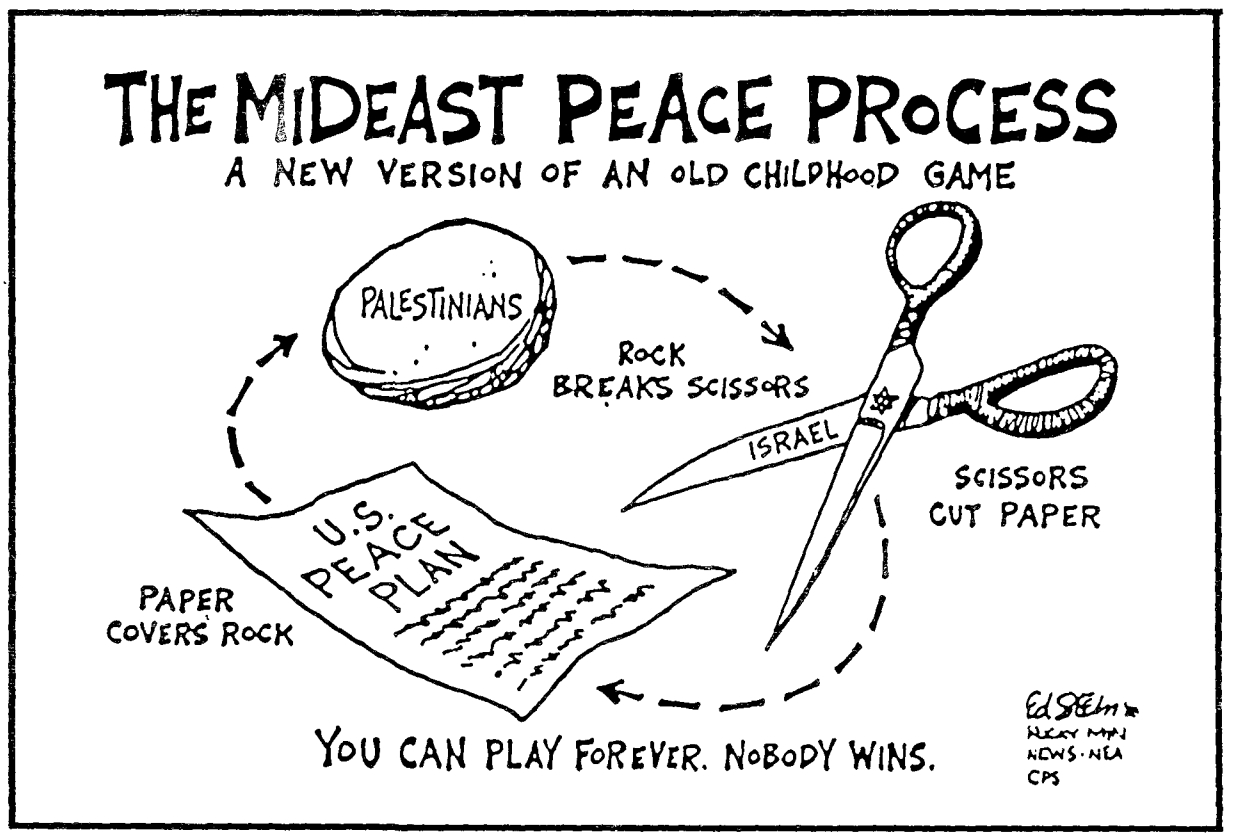

Ritalin: DMZ in the War on Drugs

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The Contradictions of Thomas Jefferson

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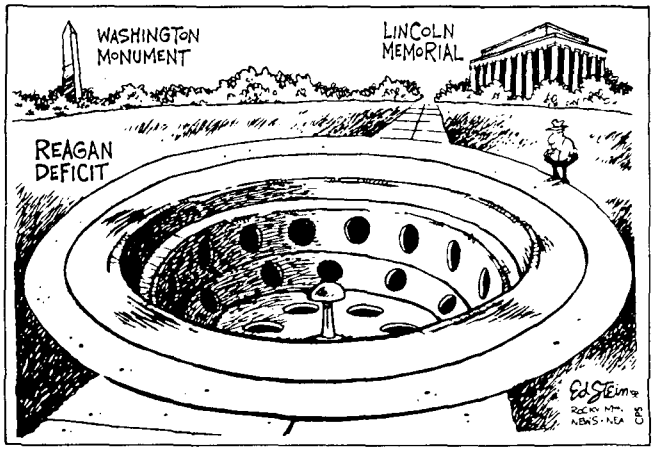
WEATHER REPORT



Democrats: playing the wrong game to win

The Democratic Party is once again acting like a baseball team that goes to Florida, plays basketball all spring, then wonders why it does so poorly in the regular season. The fact is that the Democratic primary rules are ill-suited for winning a national election, producing victors without an enthusiastic constituency. There are changes that could substantially improve matters. Two we like especially:

- Let independents vote in the primaries. The independents are going to call the shots in the fall, we might as well hear from them in the spring.
- Make it easy for candidates to enter later primaries and show what they can do. Even though they couldn't capture a majority of the delegates on the first ballot, if they proved markedly more attractive than the early starters the convention at least would have a choice rather end up stuck with a ho-hum choice like Mondale or Dukakis. A late start by Cuomo this year, for example, could have given the party the fire it needed. The way things stand now, we hire warm-up acts for the main show.

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Housing for young in trouble

A report from the Housing Joint Center for Housing Studies notes that there has been a significant decline in the number of younger people who can afford to buy a house. The report found that there are two million people in the country who could have bought a house in 1980 but can't afford it now. Further, rents have risen 14% faster than prices generally and that the proportion of family income now spent on rent now often is 30 to fifty percent. There are over nine million Americans who live in substandard housing.

Mayor calls for discussion of drug legalization

The mayor of Baltimore, Kurt Schmoke, has called for a national discussion of narcotics legalization. Schmoke said publicly what many officials will admit privately but aren't courageous enough to say in the open: drugs should be treated as a public health problems rather than as a criminal matter. Said Schmoke to the US Conference of Mayors: "What I am proposing is that we urge a national examination and discussion and research into this issue in hope that we can lead our country out of the present quagmire in which we find ourselves."

Boston council approves needle exchange

The Boston City Council has approved a pilot program exchanging dirty needles for sterile ones. Local health officials estimate that there are 14,000 intravenous drug users in Boston with a quarter of them being infected by AIDS. The measure, which is opposed by the local Catholic archbishop and other clergy, has to be approved by the state legislature and Governor Dukakis, who has stated his opposition. Said Larry Kessler of the state AIDS action committee, "The combined courage of the mayor and city council sends out a message to mayors around the country that a very tough issue can be dealt with through education."... The needle exchange idea, incidentally, has the support of the US Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, who says, "If needle exchange could contain the epidemic, nobody should be against it."

Who is a special interest?

Extra, the magazine of Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, notes that while liberal Democrats are often accused of being backed by special interests, little media attention is given to the special interests behind such groups as the bigwig Democratic Leadership Council. Among those

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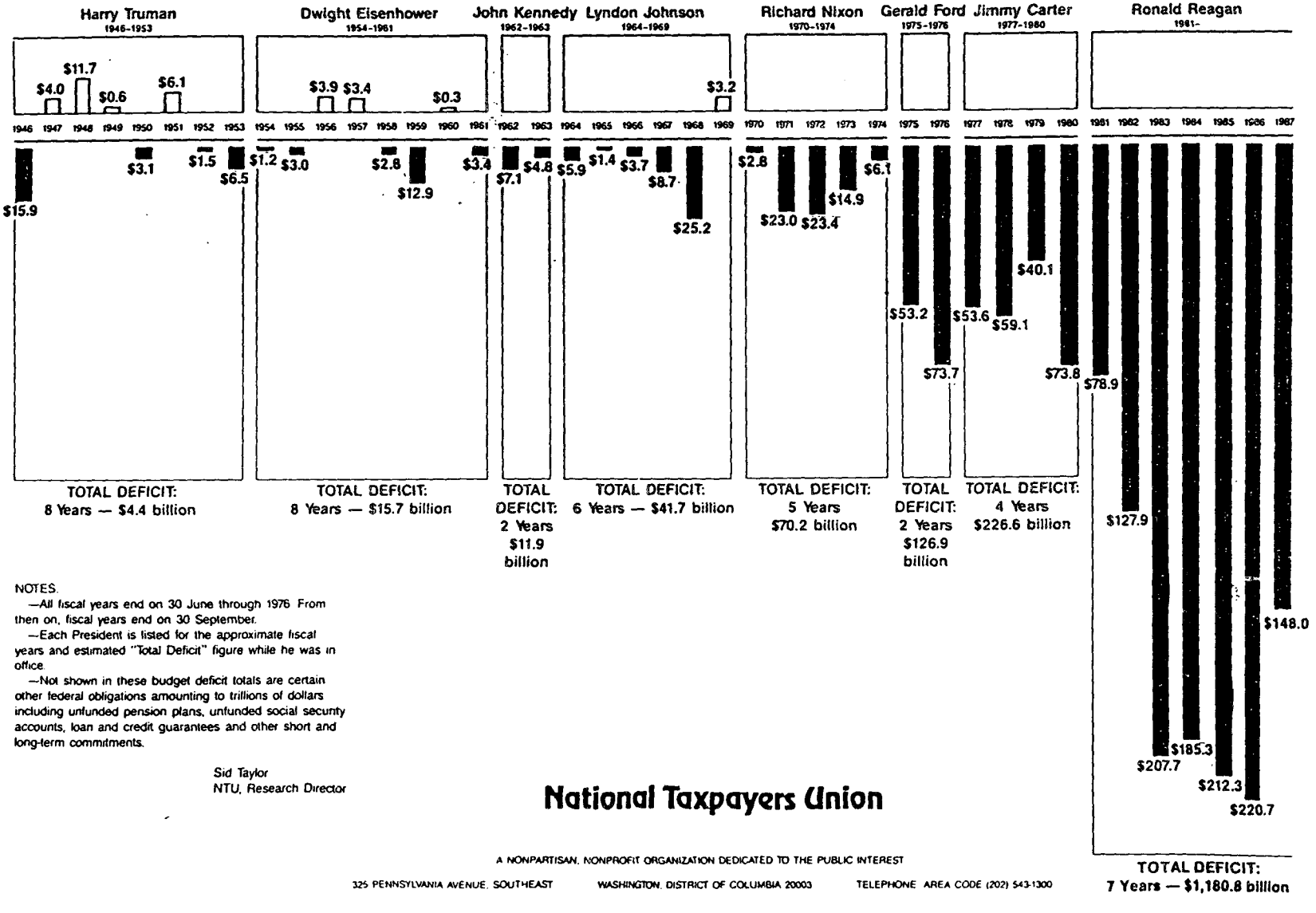
FEDERAL BUDGET

Surpluses vs. Deficits

(in billions by fiscal years)



NOTES.

—All fiscal years end on 30 June through 1976. From then on, fiscal years end on 30 September.

—Each President is listed for the approximate fiscal years and estimated "Total Deficit" figure while he was in office.

—Not shown in these budget deficit totals are certain other federal obligations amounting to trillions of dollars including unfunded pension plans, unfunded social security accounts, loan and credit guarantees and other short and long-term commitments.

Sid Taylor
NTU, Research Director

National Taxpayers Union

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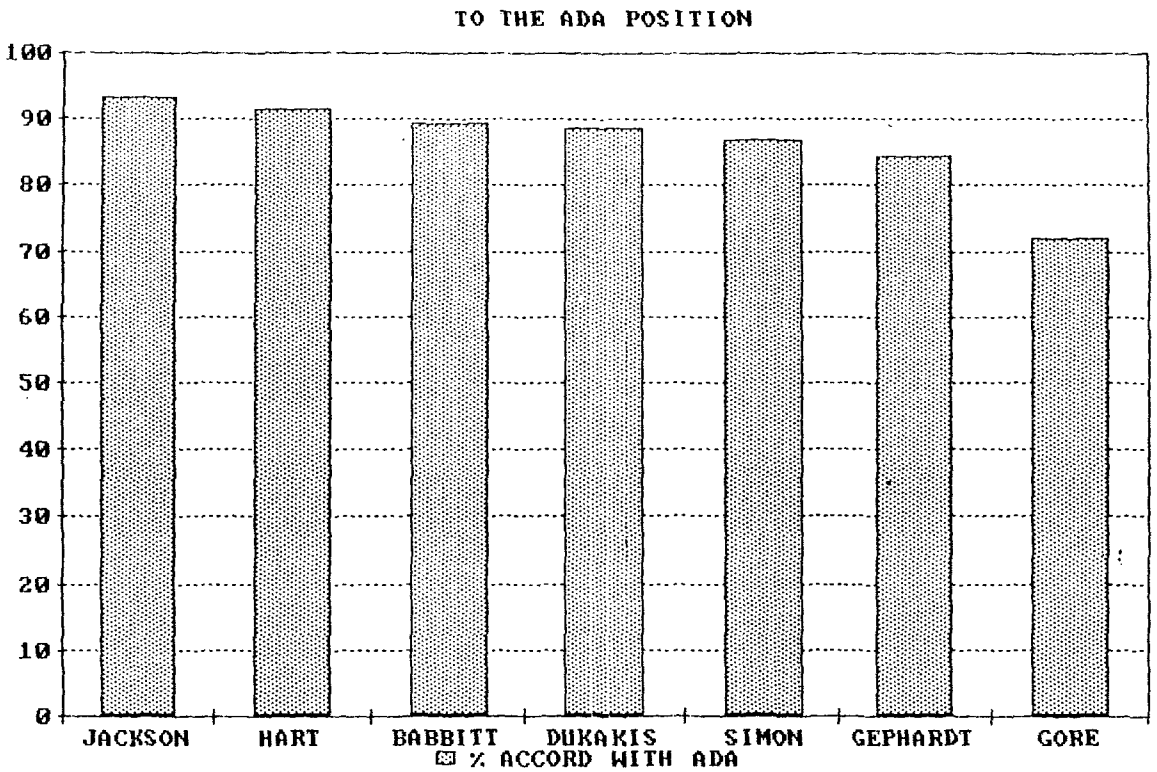
HOW CLOSE THE CANDIDATES WERE



If you had a hard time figuring out the differences between the various Democratic candidates this year, this chart may help to explain why. Americans for Democratic Action, with the aid of a non-partisan voter education organization, analyzed the speeches and position papers of seven candidates orginally in the race. On twenty key issues, the candidates were rated by how close they came to ADA's position. With the exception of Gore, there was less than a ten percent variation. Jesse Jackson was weakest on social welfare, birth control, abortion, and federal drug testing, scoring in the high seventies on these issues. Dukakis scored only 55% on the death penalty. Other weaknesses for Dukakis from a progressive point of view were social welfare, energy, AIDs testing, federal drug testing and gun control. It should be noted that these scores were based on what the candidates said, which does not necessarily reflect what they would do.

bankrolling the DLC are Boeing, Dow Chemical, Texaco, Textron, the Tobacco Institute, and American Cyanamid.

"White rights" in the south

David Duke, running on a 'white rights' platform, received about 41,000 votes in the south during the Super Tuesday primary, nearly twice as many as Lyndon Larouche got. Duke, who led the KKK during the 70s, got 4% of the vote in his native Louisiana.

County to ban plastic wrapping

New York's Suffolk County has become the first jurisdiction in America to ban many forms of plastic wrapping, effective next year. The ban will include plastic grocery bags and foam packaging for fast food, among other things. It will not include materials shipped into the county from other locations. The plastics industry may go to court over the new law.

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Dr. Alfred Goldson, chair of radiation therapy at Howard University Hospital in Washington has invented a bib-like garment with breast-shaped pouches for holding baby bottles. According to a recent Parenting Magazine ad for the product, the result is that "nursing can be done by anyone for just $19.95... Breast feeding isn't just women's work anymore. Goldson, who models for the ad, developed the idea for his 'baby bonder' after his wife, a corporate attorney, argued that he could never be as close to their newborn daughter as she could, since he was unable to breastfeed. Says Shirley Friend, business administrator for the bonder company, sales number somewhere under 20,000, something "we never expected. It's a story you wouldn't believe if it weren't true.

Just say no or we'll seize your boat

The Reagan administration has taken to seizing and selling boats if Customs or Coast Guard officers find even one joint aboard. The policy, which is known as "zero tolerance" applies even in cases where the small amount of drugs was brought aboard by a passenger. Says a Customs officer, Susan Woolley, "I can see the viewpoint of the innocent boat owner, but the law is really putting responsibility on individual citizens. I guess if that means searching the people on your boat, that's just what you'll have to do." The national ACLU opposes the forfeitures, noting that they represent a disproportionate punishment.

Reporter nabbed in sanctuary case

National media, proud of their defense of freedom of the press, have yet to get on the case of free-lance Demetria Martinez. A religion reporter for the *Albuquerque Journal*, Martinez got into trouble doing a piece on women fleeing El Salvador and seeking sanctuary in the US. She met the women in Mexico and later joined up with them in El Paso. She didn't cross the border with them and she didn't ride in the same car with them. Nonetheless, Martinez now faces up to 25 years in prison and $750,000 in fines on four counts of inducing and transporting 'illegal aliens.'

Black enrollment jumps

Black student applications shot up at a number of colleges this year. Brandeis reported a 35% increase and was so curious that it surveyed some other schools and found similar results on ten out of eleven campuses. Biggest jump was at William & Mary which had a 52% increase. The most recent statistics from the Census Bureau show black college enrollment down from 1976, although up slightly from the 1985 low. Schools reporting increases included Clemson, Georgia Institute of Technology, Rice, Claremont, Reed and UCLA.

Lawyers form anti-nuke group

A group of lawyers from 12 nations, including the US and USSR, have formed a new organization that will attempt to have nuclear weapons outlawed. Patterned on the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the new group -- the International Lawyers Association Against Nuclear Arms, says that those aiding the nuclear arms race could be convicted of crimes against humanity a la Nuremburg. The US co-chair, Peter Weiss, says the organization will help defend anti-nuclear activists: "It is ironic that the two most powerful countries in the world rely for their security on an illegal institution, namely nuclear weapons."

Computer viruses

You may have read about computer viruses, rogue programs that spread from computer to computer after being surreptitiously inserted in software. Although most of the examples reported involved simple hacking, there have been cases much more serious. For example, programmers of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem found a virus spreading through its machines. Analyzing the virus revealed that on Friday the 13th in May, the virus would erase all files of the disc in which it resides. The university staff 'disinfected' the virus with two counter programs, but the

(Please turn to page 10)

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Thomas Jefferson

By Clay Jenkinson

Clay Jenkinson's portrayal of Thomas Jefferson is unique, as Jenkinson is not an actor, but a scholar in the humanities who invites audiences to engage in a discussion with his character. Recently invited by the DC Community Humanities Council to appear in Washington, Jenkinson offered this unusual description of the third president.

Thomas Jefferson is a secular saint. He is perhaps the most often quoted figure in American history. He thought of himself as a farmer and scientist. His enemies called him a Jacobin, a political machiavel, an atheist, a "philosopher" (that is, a bubble-headed theorist). In fact, Jefferson should be remembered as the foremost exemplar of the Enlightenment in America and an enormously gifted man of letters. Like his hero Francis Bacon, Jefferson took all knowledge to be his province.

Biographer James Parton wrote that the young Jefferson "could calculate an eclipse, survey an estate, tie an artery, plan an edifice, try a cause, break a horse, dance a minuet, and play a violin." In his 83 years of indefatigable activity, Jefferson built one of the finest private homes in America, invented an award-winning plow, served as wartime governor of Virginia, first U.S. Secretary of State, minister plenipotentiary to the court of Louis XVI, Vice-President under John Adams, and two terms as President.

He wrote four essential state papers (*The Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Statute for Religious Liberty, the Inaugural Address of 1801, and the Plan for the Government of the Western Territories, 1784*), an enlightened book about his native Virginia, and thousands of brilliant letters. He had what he called a "canine appetite for reading."

He is considered the father of monumental architecture in the United States, the father of American paleontology and the inventor of trench archaeology. He purchased Louisiana, inspired a number of western explorations, including the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-06), devised the land survey grid which brought order to westward expansion, and (anticipating the Homestead Act) proposed that every adult male be given 50 acres of land in the West on which to subsist and pursue domestic happiness.

For six decades he collected the finest private library in America. In 1815 he offered it to the nation as the seed-bed of the Library of Congress. He reformed the law code of Virginia and redesigned American coinage and wrote a booklet of rules still used by the U.S. Senate. He was the most scientific farmer in America in his time. He wrote scholarly essays on the Anglo-Saxon language and the fossils of a prehistoric creature he called the Megalonyx.

He invented or perfected a copying machine for his voluminous correspondence (the polygraph), a wine dumb waiter, a four-sided music stand, a calendar clock and a rotating chair. In his old age he founded and designed the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, helped hire its faculty, even prescribed many of the texts.

After visiting Monticello the French philosophe the Marquis de Castellux wrote, "Mr. Jefferson is the first American who has consulted the fine arts to know how he should shelter himself from the weather."

In political theory Jefferson was a rationalist and sometimes a radical. He defended armed protest ("I like a little rebellion now and then"), argued that every constitution should be declared null and void every 19 years, declared that national debts must be retired by the generation that undertake them, supported the French Revolution and defended the Reign of Terror. To his friend Lafayette he wrote, "We are not to expect to be translated from despotism to liberty in a feather-bed." He advocated a "militia only to actual invasion" and a coast guard rather than an expensive and war-prone navy. He proposed universal manhood suffrage and championed the idea that the people (at least must) be trusted with self-government. He considered the union a voluntary compact of sovereign states, the national government an institution of severely limited powers. And he defended (at the time of the Kentucky Resolutions) the r

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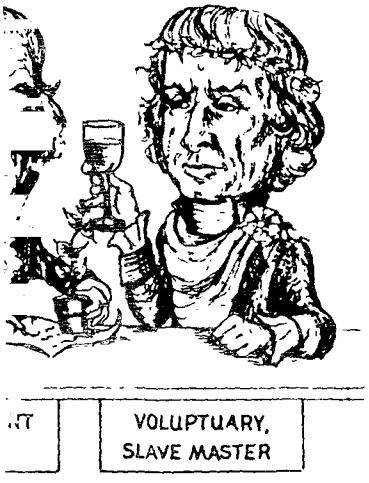
of individual states to nullify unconstitutional acts of the national government or — in extremity — to secede. He taught that nothing is sacred but the rights of man; all else is negotiable.

He was a man of contradictions. He was an eloquent abolitionist and yet he kept more than 200 slaves — purchased slaves furtively while serving as President of the United States. He was an ardent student of American Indian culture. He believed that the rights of Native Americans must be protected. And yet he articulated the twin pillars of an American Indian policy that led to tragedy in the late 19th century: temporary removal and eventual assimilation. He declared that if he could only go to heaven at the head of a party he would rather not go there at all, and yet he created (with his friend Madison) one of the most effective political parties in American history. He was a strict constructionist and yet he purchased Louisiana and imposed on his countrymen an economic embargo whose enforcement required the greatest concentration of executive authority prior to the Civil War. He was a champion of the rights of man and yet he unblushingly asserted that women's happiness, if they only knew it, resides in the nursery. "The tender breasts of ladies werre not formed for political convulsion," he informed Anne Willing Bingham. "The French Ladies miscalculate much their own happiness when they wander from the true field of their influence into that of politicks." He swore upon the altar of God eternal hostility to every form of tyranny over the mind of man and yet in the course of five decades of political turbulence he drafted a bill of attainder, used the army to enforce laws in time of peace, urged a few wholesome prosecutions of opposition journalists, violated the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, declared Aaron Burr guilty "beyond question" before he was tried for treason, and selected University of Virginia professors on the basis of their political opinions. He had, as Leonard Levy has demonstrated, a dark side.



He was an intensely private man. He burned all the letters he exchanged with his wife Martha, who died in 1782. He never kept a diary. His autobiography was abortive. He said he felt an "invincible repugnance" in talking about himself. This shroud of privacy makes it impossible to understand Jefferson's innermost feelings. Nor are we likely to find satisfactory answers to our crude and distracting obsession with Sally Hemings, the slave woman whom some suppose to have been his mistress.

Jefferson was a humanist. He believed in the perfectibility of man. And though he believed that a benevolent God created for humanity a cosmos of Newtonian orderliness and beauty, he argued that humans must build paradise on earth and not wait for a heaven that might not exist and should not be permitted to siphon off our urgency for justice and equality and brotherhood on earth. To his nephew Peter Carr, he wrote: "Fix reason firmly in her seat, and call to her tribunal every fact, every opinion."

Jefferson was an enormously energetic, extremely healthy man. He claimed never to have risen after the sun through his entire adulthood. He bathed his feet in ice water to maintain his health. He preferred a diet of vegetables to meat whenever possible. He took exercise every afternoon. While he was President he personally supervised the purchase of fresh vegetables for the White House. His dress was almost always plain; his detractors called it slovenly.

Jefferson was born on 13 April 1743. He died on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the *Declaration of Independence*, 4 July 1826.

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Just say no, except. . .

Diane Divorky

The use of Ritalin on school-children, which fueled a much-publicized debate among educators, physicians and parents in the mid-seventies, is back in the news.

The powerful stimulant drug has never been more popular. In 1975, about 600,000 youngsters were on Ritalin regimens, according to conservative estimates. Now close to 2 million children take Ritalin or one of its cousins, in the same nation that crusades to convince its young to "Just Say No" to mood-altering drugs.

But even as the number of Ritalin users grows, parents around the country are filing lawsuits against the physicians who write the prescriptions and the educators promoting its use.

A dozen years ago, the folk wisdom was that by paradoxically slowing down the 'antsy' child, the amphetamine-type drug would improve his or her academic performance. But studies had been contradicting that theory for years, and in 1978 a major review in Clinical Pediatrics of 17 studies of the effects of stimulant drugs on students once again found no impact on learning, only on "classroom manageability." Since then, no short-range or long-range impact of the drug on learning has been suggested, although it can cause insomnia, growth suppression, stomach pains, and possible neurological complications.

The new round of lawsuits is what has put Ritalin back in the news. A Glendale, Calif., mother charges that the school threatened to suspend her seven-year-old son if he did not take Ritalin. Her $5 million suit against both school officials and the county psychiatrist who prescribed the drug claims that the boy suffered serious side effects from the drug.

Minneapolis parents are suing a psychiatrist, claiming that their son developed a permanent nervous disorder from taking Ritalin, and parents in Maryland's Prince Georges County in suburban Washington, D.C., have filed a similar medical malpractice suit.

And in Atlanta, parents who have come together to oppose Ritalin have filed a $125 million class action suit against the American Psychiatric Association. That suit alleges that the official diagnostic criteria that allow physicians to prescribe the drug are based on scientific misrepresentation and a conflict of interest. The psychiatrists gain financially from diagnoses of behavioral problems deemed treatable by drugs, the suit charges.

John Coale, a Washington, D.C., attorney who made his reputation in disaster cases from airplane crashes to the chemical spill in Bhopal, India, is representing parents in a number of suits and threatened suits. He said that he plans to negotiate with school officials in a number of jurisdictions to see if regulations forbidding teachers from mentioning drugs as a solution to school problems could be "totally enforced." If parents are told about the drugs, the school people need to be "crystal clear" in explaining their possible dangers, Coale said.

If such negotiations work in Georgia's Gwinnett County, Coale hopes to move the class action suit to the District of Columbia, where the American Psychiatric Association is based, and possibly make it a national class action claim.

As in the seventies, authorities in psychiatry, medicine, and education are sharply divided on the Ritalin issue, many praising the drug's effects, others concerned about the justifications for its use. Louis J. West, who heads UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital, maintains that, if used properly, the amphetamine-type drug allows the child to function better by somehow correcting a chemical imbalance between the maturing of two parts of the brain.

L. Alan Sroufe, a professor of child psychology at the University of Minnesota, states that the real problem is not the difficult child but the failure of the society to provide family counseling and extra school help. He notes that long-term studies have not found

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that hyperactive youngsters on Ritalin end up doing better academically or socially than those not prescribed the drug.

Meanwhile, the official psychiatric terms used to describe the behavior for which Ritalin is seen as the answer have gone through a dizzying series of changes. Earlier diagnoses, 'hyperkinetic impulse disorder' and 'functional behavior disorder,' were replaced in the early 1970s by 'minimal brain dysfunction,' a diagnosis so vague it, in turn, was replaced by three separate symptoms listed in 1975 as 'hyperactivity,' 'impulsivity,' and 'short attention span.'

Today the diagnosis that allows for drugging is 'attention-deficit disorder' for which the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders lists 13 symptoms. They include fidgeting, distractability, excessive talking, losing things -- the kind of characteristics common in young schoolchildren that bug teachers and parents.

Using the new terminology, CIBA-Geigy, the New Jersey pharmaceutical company which produces Ritalin, is pitching drugging as a solution to these problems. CIBA's booklets, aimed at parents and teachers and written by a medical doctor, first legitimize the medical basis of the disorder and then suggest, discreetly, that 'medication' may be prescribed to decrease the child's hyperactivity.

The biggest change between the seventies and today may well be the increasing acceptance such promotional efforts are receiving.

Because of the growing demand, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration had to raise its proposed 1987 production ceiling to nearly double what it was two years earlier, with use up 60 percent during that time. In Georgia, which now ranks fourth nationally in Ritalin sales, Ritalin use for schoolchildren -- particularly in Atlanta's affluent suburbs -- has become "almost trendy," says Andy Watry, executive director of the state's Composite Board of Medical Examiners.

Concerned over the high use, regulatory boards in Georgia, as well as in Utah and Maryland, are reviewing prescription practices by physicians there.

The time is right, of course, for the sudden increase in drug use for children. Since the school reform movement of the early 1980s, the pressure on both teachers and parents has increased for higher test scores and more diligent students.

A career oriented mother puts her 10-year-old son on Ritalin so he can do better in math in a private school in suburban Washington, D.C. Professional Minneapolis parents are delighted with their eight-year-old son's improved school performance in math and reading attributed to Ritalin. Parents whose dreams are tied to their youngsters' acceptance and success at a private school in New York City panic when the children goof off or do badly there, and are quick to find a doctor who will prescribe Ritalin.

Finally, it is not the teachers who suggest Ritalin or the physicians who write the prescriptions who are primarily responsible for the increased use of the drugs. It is the parents, frightened by the future their children will inherit, who will do anything to give them a better shot in what they increasingly view as a limited society with no guarantees.

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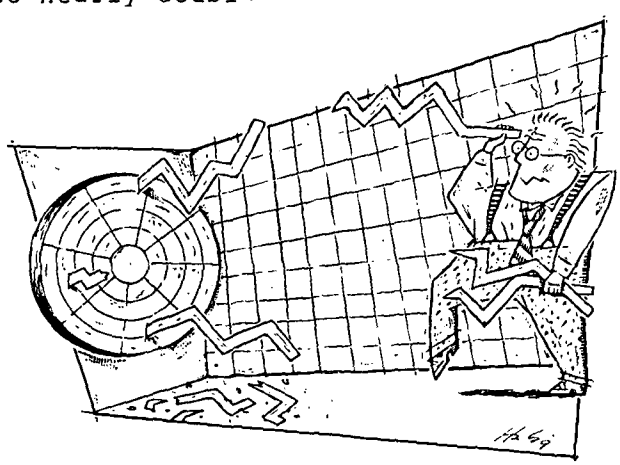

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Weather Report cont'd. . . .

incident points to the potential for real problems in such a computer-reliant country as the US... And that's not all. Ronnie Dugger, ex of the *Texas Observer*, has been working on an investigation of the considerable potential for fraud in computerized election systems. Watch for it.

Why La Prensa ran out of paper

Moore's Weekly, reports the story behind the story about that shortage of newsprint at Ronald Reagan's favorite newspaper: Nicaragua's *La Prensa*. The US media got all hot over the shortage, but the fact is that, because of the US trade embargo, *La Prensa* and two other Nicaraguan papers get an equal quota of newsprint from --yes, the Soviet Union. Apparently, *La Prensa*, attempting to impress its US backers with its popularity, last fall began printing three times as many papers as it actually sold, hence the eventual paper shortage.

Dr. Strangelove gets tough again

According to Christopher Hitchens in *The Nation*, Henry Kissinger met with American Jewish leaders in a private breakfast on January 21. According to a leaked memo written by one of the attendees, Julius Berman, former chair of the Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, Kissinger told the group:

Israel should bar the media from entry into the territories involved in the present demonstrations, accept the short-term criticism of the press for such conduct, and put down the insurrection as quickly as possible -- overwhelmingly, brutally, and rapidly.

Campus press censorship increases

In January the Supreme Court ruled that high school principals could censor and

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REVIEW INDEX

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- 1969-72 DC Gazette $4.00
- 1984-86 Review/Gazette $2.50

Why Noriega got in trouble

In February, the Kerry hearings on Panama's General Manuel Noriega, exposed the international version of Reagan's "Just Say No to Drugs" campaign. General Noriega has been on the CIA payroll for nearly two decades. Evidence of Noriega's drug dealing dates back to the Nixon Administration. So why the campaign to oust him now?

To the Reagan Administration, Noriega's unpardonable sin is not drug trafficking. Rather, it is his willingness to strike deals with all sides. Noriega is an opportunist, a "wild card." Jose Blandon, a former top advisor to General Noriega, revealed in a deposition taken by Christic Institute attorneys that in a June 1985 *meeting with Oliver North, Noriega agreed* to train contra military leaders in Panama in preparation for an attack on Rivas, Nicaragua. According to the plan, a force of 3000-5000 contras would capture Rivas and establish a provisional government there.

Yet Noriega has not limited himself to doing the Reagan Administration's bidding in the region. Panama is a founding member of the Contadora Group, which has sought diplomatic solutions to tensions in the region. Those diplomatic efforts have come in direct conflict with Reagan's militaristic approach to regional policy. Moreover, despite concerted pressure, Noriega refused to consider amending the Panama Canal Treaty in order to postpone Panamanian control for 20 years. Panama is now scheduled to take control of the Panama Canal on January 1, 2000.

The pressure on Noriega began in earnest when Admiral John Poindexter, then National Security Advisor, visited Noriega in December of 1985. Admiral Poindexter told Noriega, in effect, to get in line or else. Shortly after this visit, Administration officials began denouncing human rights violations in Panama. The U.S. suddenly called for an inquiry into Noriega's alleged role in the murder of Dr. Hugo Spadafora, a popular figure who was threatening to expose Noriega's drug trafficking. And, in April of 1986, Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, accused Noriega before a congressional sub-committee of involvement in gun-running, drug-trafficking and other abuses.

Noriega has not proven to be a reliable ally of this Administration. This, coupled with mounting evidence of his criminal activity and his dictatorial position, make him an acceptable target for a quick exit, paving the way for a more malleable presidential prospect. With so much attention focused on the drug issue, going after Noriega helps the Administration look serious about its war on drugs, while serving the Administration's political ends.

THE CHRISTIC INSTITUTE

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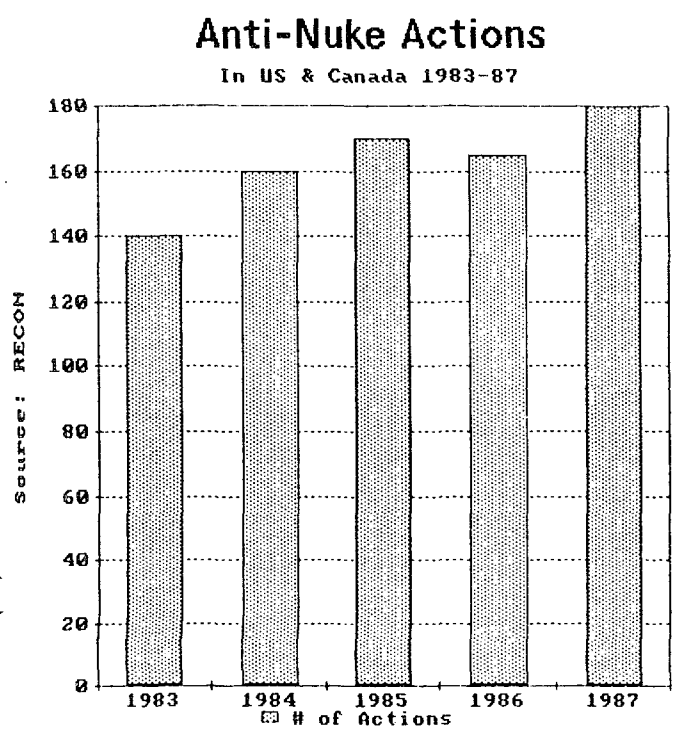
regulate what goes into their school papers if the papers are run as for-credit journalism labs. Although the justices said their ruling did not apply to colleges, several colleges have been recently trying to muzzle their campus papers. Latest is California State University at Los Angeles which fired the publisher of the University Times on April 19. Last year, the paper reported on the death of CSULA student in a campus building during an earthquake. The student's parents eventually sued CSULA and the administration wanted the paper to moderate its coverage to help limit questions of liability.

Cheaper to close nuclear plants?

A new study by Public Citizen analyst Joseph Kreisberg says most nuclear power plants are so expensive to operate and so unreliable that it would be cheaper to close them than to keep them running. Operating costs since 1970 have risen 11.4% annually *after* inflation, while the cost of major repairs has risen 12.8% annually also after inflation... Statistician Jay Gould of the Institute for Policy Studies says that high death rates in the US during May-August 1986 were a direct result of radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl accident. During that period 20-40,000 more Americans died than usual, according to the government's National Center for Health Statistics. Gould also discovered a correlation between death rates and fallout: in California and Washington, where measured concentrations of radioactive iodine-131 were highest, death rates rose about 5% over the summer. In Arizona and Texas, where iodine-131 levels were the lowest, death rates were about normal. -- *Northern Sun*



The New Left Business Observer is a new monthly newsletter reporting on business, politics and economics. Info: LBO, 250 West 85th St., NYC NY 10024

Study shows welfare and dependency unrelated

A group of researchers at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research report that the US welfare system does not induce a form of dependency that lasts into future generations. Contrary to the stereotype, the average time a person spends on welfare is less than four years. The researchers also found that "most children growing up in heavily dependent homes do not become heavily dependent as adults." Further, aid to families with dependent children has "no measurable impact on births to unmarried women and only a modest effect on rates of divorce, separation or female head-of-household status."

Furthermore...

Public Citizen reports that there have been 26 000 mishaps at American nuclear power plants since Three Mile Island.

Condom sales soared last year by about 33% to $200 million. In the previous five years, sales had increased by only a single-digit rate.

This is the 20th anniversary of the musical production *Hair*, and there will be a charity benefit with the original cast on May 26 headed by, of all people, Nancy Reagan.

Most unusual political headline of the season: when Jesse Jackson pulled his coup in Michigan, the Detroit Free Press ran this over the story: "State backs Dukakis, Jackson."

Dorothy Parker's ashes, long stored in a Wall Street office, have finally found a permanent resting place: the NAACP national headquarters in Baltimore. Ms. Parker left her entire estate to the NAACP.

Anatoly Bogaty was a Soviet intelligence officer who defected to the US two years

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ago. Now he wants to go back because he lost so much money in last fall's stock market crash.

Czechoslovakia has cancelled the construction of a dam and hydroelectric station because of the ecological hazards involved. This is reportedly the first time a major project has been stopped in Czechoslovakia for environmental reasons.

Tim Weiner, as part of his work preparing his Pulitzer Prize winning account of the federal government's black budget(F #263), had to obtain the Pentagon budget, along with supporting documents. It's all publicly available, but it's the size of several Manhattan phone directories and costs just about $2000... Incidentally, 20% of the current budget's weapons acquisition program is classified, up from 14% in 1986.

Cogeneration is the use of heat from an engine or generator to provide energy in addition to that supplied by the device itself. From California comes word that a gas company there is developing a cogenerator that is based on a Chevrolet V6 engine. The device generates 30 kilowatts of electricity and has an overall efficiency of 81% compared with the typical large gas-powered plant that has an efficiency rating of only 33%. Tecogen Inc. of Waltham, Mass., is expecting to sell the cogenerator for about $23,500.

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MAJOR FACTUAL metaphysical discovery cannot get through because it sounds too impossible. Roger Henry, 2252 Westchester Ave, Bronx, NY 10462 271

RADIO WAVES can detonate nuclear arms. More in Winter RECON. Free copy from RECON, PO Box 14602, Philadelphia Pa 19134.....276

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